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OGC 66-0798

Executive Registry
66-1581

7 APR 1966

The Honorable U. Alexis Johnson
Deputy Under Secretary for
Political Affairs
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Alexis:

Forwarded herewith is a statement which contains information concerning the probable detonation by the Chinese Communists of a nuclear device in the near future. This information as set forth is unclassified and, therefore, is available for use as a public announcement before the event.

In the event that the Chinese modify their fission devices to produce a single-stage, low-yield thermonuclear device, this statement indicates that it would be a nuclear novelty with no real military significance and thus downgrades the military threat. I believe you should know, therefore, of

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[redacted]

ILLEGIB

[redacted]

Sincerely,

[redacted]

ILLEGIB
ILLEGIB

Desmond FitzGerald
Deputy Director for Plans

Enclosure

[redacted]

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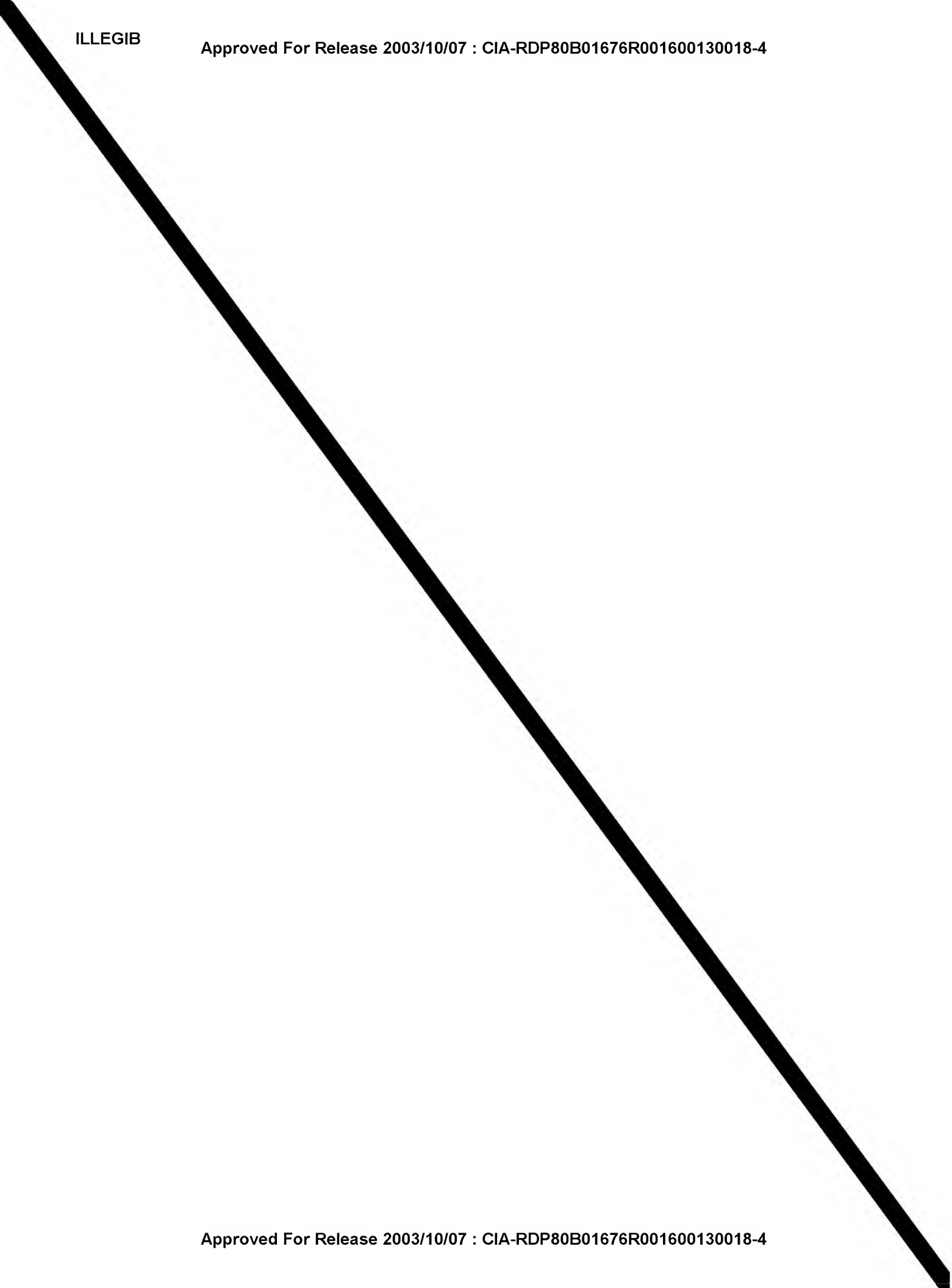

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The United States Government has valid information that the Chinese Communists are now preparing their third atomic test. It is being readied in the desert area of Sinkiang. It has been almost a year since the last Chinese nuclear test, and there are indications that this next explosion will be larger and produce greater radioactive fallout than the first two Chinese tests. This test, like the fourth Soviet shot, may be a crude single-stage, low-yield thermonuclear device. Such a device is readily available to the Chinese by a modification of their fission devices tested twice previously. However, such a modification does not represent a true thermonuclear weapon capability and is essentially a nuclear novelty with no real military significance. We believe it will be several years before the Chinese develop a true thermonuclear device or have a significant stockpile of any type of atomic weapon. In the meantime, their continued atmospheric testing presents a health hazard to the people of Asia and the Pacific on whom the radioactive debris will fall.

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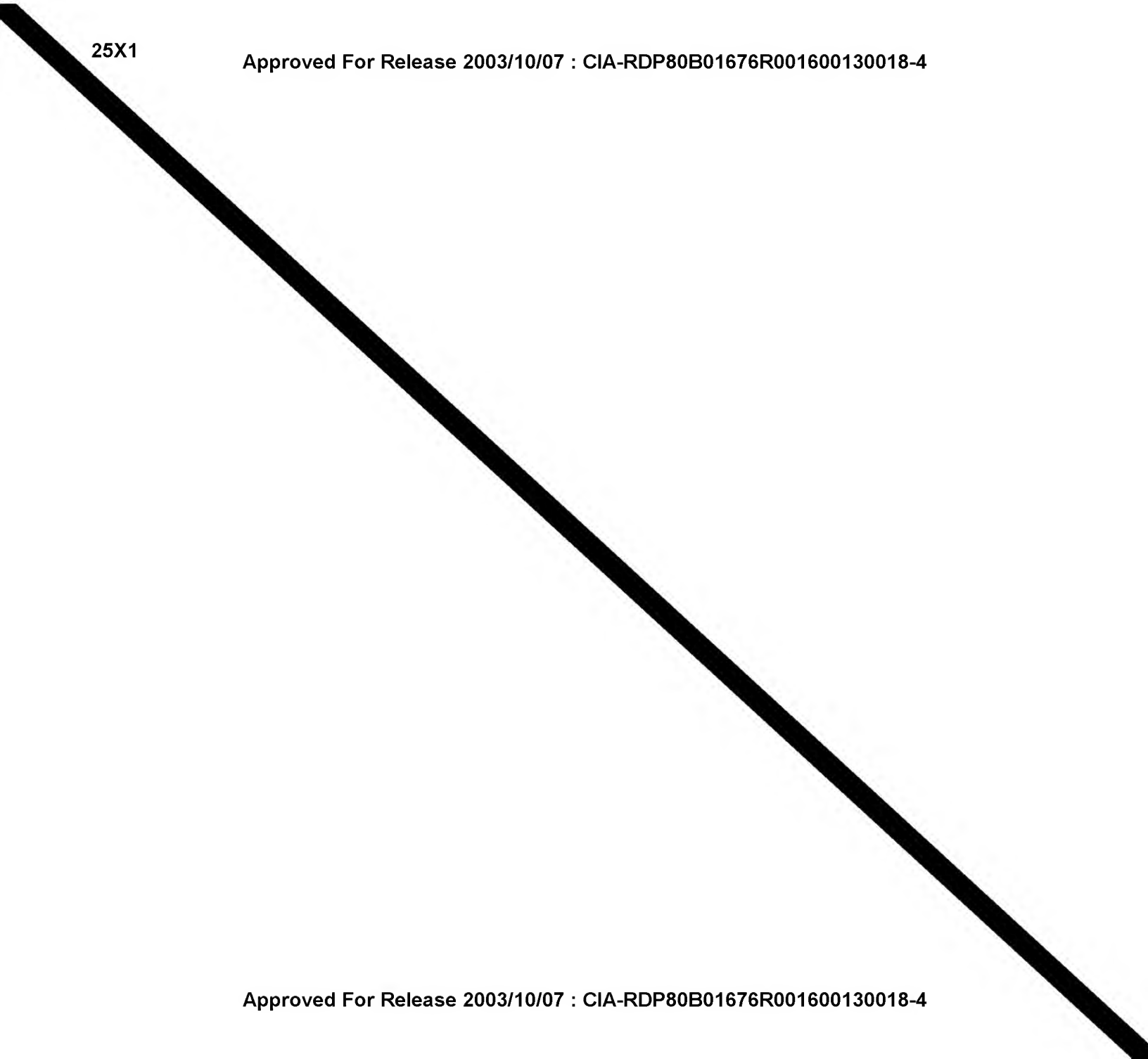

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